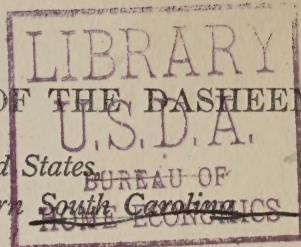


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CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE DASHEEN.

*For the Southern United States
from Southeastern Texas to Eastern South Carolina*

The dasheen requires **rich, sandy soil, very moist but fairly well drained**. The plant is not greatly injured by occasional flooding for short periods. Such lands as the "hammock" lands of Florida are especially adapted for the cultivation of this crop, and produce dasheens of good quality.

While dasheens grown in muck soil may yield heavily they are inferior in quality and often are scarcely fit for table use. When grown in heavy clay soils, or in poorly drained soils of any kind, the corms (central "tubers") are usually of very poor quality.

Planting should be done as early as climatic conditions permit, —about 10 days before the last spring frost is expected. Where the frostless season does not exceed six months, start the tubers a month earlier inside and set out when danger from frost is past.

In planting it is better to use tubers weighing 2 to 4 ounces or more each, if available; but good results are secured with much smaller ones if the soil conditions are favorable. For field culture whole tubers are planted, —singly, and not more than 2 to 3 inches deep. The spacing may be 3 feet, in rows 4 feet apart; or, 3½ feet each way. During the summer the soil should be drawn gradually to the plants, and the ground kept free from weeds. When moisture is deficient, mulching, if practicable, will help to conserve the soil moisture and keep down weeds.

Under suitable conditions the plants reach a height of 5 to 7 feet in midsummer; and, where frost does not occur after April first, it is often possible to obtain tubers for home use early in September. Harvesting of the main crop should generally be done just before the first autumn frost. The best storage temperature is about 50° F.

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